

less its reactions on opinion at home Mrs Webb made a practice of writing a monthly letter to his constituents in Seaham In one of them in July 1927 she had stated, quite bluntly, that

"The Russian Revolution, and especially, the propaganda of it in Great Britain, has been the greatest misfortune in the history of the British Labour Movement Just as the French Revolution in 1789-93 kept back the advent of political democracy in England for a hundred years, so the Russian Revolution of 1917 may, if we are not careful, prove to keep back the advent of economic democracy in England for half a century "

So, if keenly interested in Russia, their interest was tinged with distaste This distaste was, in either case, connected with the aversion they had both always felt from the Marxian dialectic and the entire doctrinaire approach On top of this came the disgust of their orderly minds for the mess and horror of revolution From the British angle, moreover, the whole thing was a bit of a nuisance

Trotsky, of course, at once raised the question of his own admission to England Much as he despised everyone in the Socialist movement there, he still thought it their duty to get him in What he himself says is

"Mr and Mrs Webb most courteously paid me a visit early in May 1929, when I was already on Prmkipo We talked about the possible advent of a Labour Party to power I remarked in passing that immediately after the formation of Mr Macdonald's Government, I intended to demand a visa Mr Webb expressed the view that the Government might not find itself strong enough, and because of their dependence on Liberals, not free enough, either I replied that a Party not strong enough to be able to answer for its actions had no right to

power
irreconcilable differences needed no new test "1 Our

They came home, as they thought, to the
peace and quiet,
the ordered work on their own lines, of
Passfield Corner,
to resume, after seven years' interruption,
the congenial

** My Life, p 493*